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February 3, 2003

Country of Origin Labeling
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA
William T. Session, Associate Deputy
Stop 0249 Room 2092-S
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-0249

Dear Mr. Sessions,

We are pecan growers in several counties in Georgia and have worked with other growers for over 22 years. We are concerned that the Country of Origin Labeling Bill does not include pecans. We would like to encourage the USDA to take appropriate steps to do what is necessary to have pecans included in the Country of Origin Labeling.

We feel that it would be beneficial for consumers to know the origin of the pecans that they are buying and that given a choice, they would choose pecans grown in the United States rather than foreign pecans.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

John Merritt

Richard Merritt